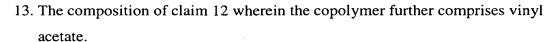


WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- A pressure sensitive adhesive composition comprising a copolymer comprising

 (a) at least one A monomer selected from the group consisting of an alkyl acrylate containing 4 to 12 carbon atoms in the alkyl group and an alkyl methacrylate containing 4 to 12 carbon atoms in the alkyl group; and
 (b) at least one pyrrolidone monomer selected from the group consisting of pyrrolidonoethyl acrylate and pyrrolidonoethyl methacrylate.
- 2. The composition of claim 1 wherein the A monomer is selected from the group consisting of isooctyl acrylate, 2-ethylhexyl acrylate, butyl acrylate, and cyclohexyl acrylate.
- 3. The composition of claim 1 wherein the A monomer is isooctyl acrylate.
- 4. The composition of claim 1 further comprising a B monomer that is copolymerizable with the A and pyrrolidone monomers.
- 5. The composition of claim 4 wherein the B monomer comprises a functional group selected from the group consisting of carboxylic acid, carboxylic acid ester, sulfonamide, urea, carbamate, carboxamide, hydroxy, amine, oxy, oxo, and cyano.
- 6. The composition of claim 1 wherein the pyrrolidone monomer is pyrrolidonoethyl acrylate.
- 7. The composition of claim 1 wherein the copolymer further comprises a macromonomer.
- 8. The composition of claim 7 wherein the macromonomer is a functionally terminated polymethylmethacrylate.
- 9. The composition of claim 7 further comprising a drug in an amount such that the composition delivers a therapeutically effective amount for the indication being treated.
- 10. The composition of claim 9 wherein the copolymer contains from about 1% to about 6% of macromonomer by weight.
- 11. The composition of claim 10 wherein the pyrrolidone monomer is pyrrolidonoethyl acrylate.
- 12. The composition of claim 11 wherein the copolymer contains from about 10% to about 45% of pyrrolidonoethyl acrylate by weight.



- 14. The composition of claim 12 further comprising a softener wherein the concentration of softener is from about 10% to about 40% based on the total weight of the composition.
- 15. The composition of claim 1 further comprising a drug in an amount such that the composition delivers a therapeutically effective amount for the indication being treated.
- 16. The composition of claim 1 further comprising a softener.
- 17. The composition of claim 16 wherein the softener is selected from the group consisting of a C₈-C₃₆ fatty acid; a C₈-C₃₆ fatty alcohol; a lower alkyl ester of a C₈-C₃₆ fatty acid; a di(lower) alkyl ester of a C₆-C₈ diacid; a monoglyceride of a C₈-C₃₆ fatty acid; tetraglycol; tetraethylene glycol; a C₆-C₃₆ alkyl pyrrolidone carboxylate; a polyethylene glycol; propylene glycol; 2-(2-ethoxyethoxy)ethanol; diethylene glycol monomethyl ether; N,N-dimethyldodecylamine N-oxide; and combinations of any two or more of the foregoing.
- 18. The composition of claim 16 wherein the concentration of softener is from about 10% to about 40% based on the total weight of the composition.
- 19. The composition of claim 1 further comprising an anti-microbial agent.
- 20. The composition of claim 19 wherein the anti-microbial agent is selected from the group consisting of chlorhexidine, a chlorhexidine salt, and mixtures thereof.
- 21. The composition of claim 19 wherein the anti-microbial agent is selected from the group consisting of iodine, iodine complexes with sodium or potassium iodide, and mixtures thereof.
- 22. The composition of claim 19 wherein the copolymer contains from about 5% to about 15% of pyrrolidonoethyl acrylate by weight.
- 23. The composition of claim 22 wherein the anti-microbial agent is selected from the group consisting of chlorhexidine, a chlorhexidine salt, and mixtures thereof.



- 24. The composition of claim 22 wherein the anti-microbial agent is selected from the group consisting of iodine, iodine complexes with sodium or potassium iodide, and mixtures thereof.
- 25. A transdermal delivery device comprising a backing and a composition according to claim 9, the composition being coated on at least a portion of a surface of the backing.
- 26. A transdermal drug delivery device comprising a backing and a composition according to claim 14, the composition being coated on at least a portion of a surface of the backing.
- 27. A transdermal drug delivery device comprising a backing and a composition according to claim 15, the composition being coated on at least a portion of a surface of the backing.
- 28. A method for transdermal delivery of a drug comprising the steps of (A) a step of providing a composition comprising
 - (i) a copolymer comprising
 - (a) at least one A monomer selected from the group consisting of an alkyl acrylate containing 4 to 12 carbon atoms in the alkyl group and an alkyl methacrylate containing 4 to 12 carbon atoms in the alkyl group; and
 - (b) at least one pyrrolidone/monomer selected from the group consisting of pyrrolidonoethyl acrylate and pyrrolidonoethyl methacrylate; and
 - (ii) a drug in an amount such that the composition delivers a therapeutically effective amount for the indication being treated; and
 - (B) a step of applying the composition to an external part of the human body for a period sufficient to achieve the desired therapeutic result.
- 29. A pressure sensitive tape comprising a backing and a composition according to claim 1, the composition being coated on at least a portion of a surface of the backing.
- 30. A pressure sensitive adhesive copolymetr comprising
 - (a) at least one A monomer selected from the group consisting of an alkyl acrylate containing 4 to 12 carbon atoms in the alkyl group and an alkyl

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methacrylate containing 4 to 12 carbon atoms in the alkyl group; and (b) at least one pyrrolidone monomer selected from the group consisting of pyrrolidonoethyl acrylate and pyrrolidonoethyl methacrylate.